looking down upon kitchen windows, as is the case in Park Crescent, Portland-place, where columns come over kitchen areas.

There is one peculiarity in "G. R. F.'s" design, for which he has assigned no motive, nor has he even adverted to it, much as it seems to require explanation, if not vindication. I allude to the centre portico, which he has made hexastyle, putting a column instead of an intercolumn in the middle, and thereby actually destroying all appearance of the principal and public entrance to the Museum being within that portico.

In regard to your opinion of Smirke and his design for the Museum, you appear to have veered about rather strangely; after calling attention to all that had been said against the one and the other, you now endeavour to soften matters down wonderfully, and to make it appear that he has been very ill-used. You now talk of the "bright side" of his character—of his "noble and generous nature"—generous!! The concealment of the model of the Museum from the public is no very great proof of that; neither is the manner in which he keeps himself aloof from all his professional brethren, and all the interests of architecture. At the Royal Academy he never exhibits; he never in any way publishes any of his designs; he never encourages or even countenances any scheme for the advancement of art; he never patronises any publication; his name is never down to any subscription. Oh! he is vastly generous—a noble nature truly!

X. X.

INSTITUTION OF BUILDERS' FOREMEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—The committee having read an article in your valuable paper respecting the above-named institution, it gives them pleasure to observe the favourable manner in which you express yourself towards its interests, and they beg, through the medium of your journal, to give a brief outline of the objects they have in view, the first and principal being to render assistance to such of their members as may unfortunately, through accident or the decline of years, be unable to support themselves in the position of life to which they have been accustomed.

They are also most anxious to have it distinctly understood, that in seeking at the outset the countenance and support of the master builders, the great object they have in view is the placing in their (the masters') hands the means by which with little trouble or expense to themselves individually they may ensure the reward and encouragement of faithful servants, and not under any guise to institute a trade association or combination to interfere with the business or prerogative of the master builder.

With this distinct avowal on the one hand, and disclaimer on the other, they are encouraged also to hope that the further suggestion you have made on the part of the institution, that is, the furnishing its members with funds for the endowment and support of an asylum, may very readily be effected, since by removing all reason for, or feelings of, distrust on the part of the heads of the building profession, the support of the wealthy and respectable merchants and others connected with the building branches, together with the countenance of the high-minded and philanthropic of all classes, may be immediately anticipated to a more than sufficient extent for the purpose you have proposed.

The committee also feel convinced that the eminent architects and surveyors of the metropolis cannot but regard with pleasure an opportunity of subscribing to an institution that will mitigate, if not obviate, many of the vexations and distresses that too often await the humble but useful agents standing between them and the operatives who carry their thoughts as well as more minute designs to a satisfactory completion.

To the profession generally an institution such as this presents a numerous body, from which persons fully competent and deserving encouragement may be selected for every practical purpose.

I am, Sir, on behalf of the committee, your humble servant,

T. ROWE, Secretary.

Mr. Tapin, surveyor to the Sun Fire Office, estimates the cost of restoring the Marquis of Bute's mansion at Luton Hoo at between 30,000l. and [illegible]

PUBLIC BATHS, ABERDEEN.

SCOTLAND is leading the way in making a popular provision for the *luxury of cleanliness*. We lately called attention to the measures in progress at Edinburgh for the institution of public baths, and also glanced at the like as being in contemplation for Aberdeen; since that a public meeting has been held in the last-named town, and subscriptions have been entered into, headed by Provost Blaikie with 10l., and several other gentlemen for smaller sums. "But the working classes," says the *Aberdeen Herald*, "must do something themselves. Let them contribute together as shopmates or fellow-craftsmen, or any other way that they find most eligible, and make up a joint sum for the general fund. We know that the well-informed among them approve highly of the establishment of baths, and will gladly use them; but they must show, by the number of their subscriptions—the amount we leave to their own judgment and sense of ability—that they really appreciate the object in view. The stronger the expression of opinion on their part is, the greater certainty there will be of raising sufficient funds among the middle and upper classes."

In these remarks we heartily concur, and in those which follow, which we extract from the account of the proceedings of the meeting, but which will have their apt and beneficial application to the general question. It was observed by Professor Blackie—

"He had often, while studying the classics, been astonished that, in devoting so much attention to their languages, they practised so few of the customs of the ancients. They learned Greek and Latin words, and he had been again and again asked what was the practical utility of these? He did not wonder at the question, when so many of the customs of the Greeks and Romans—useful and beneficial customs—were left unheeded. Plato mentions music and gymnastics as the greatest pleasures that the Greeks enjoyed. They were indulged in by all ranks of society; but with us, these noble and beneficial enjoyments are altogether excluded from our academical career. It might be thought by some that the former was not necessary; but this could not be said of the latter—gymnastics were absolutely necessary to the preservation of health, and bathing formed an important part of gymnastics. It was a fact that no one denied, although it was but little acted upon, that those gymnastics that excite, and those that soothe the physical frame, were as necessary to the development and perfect toning of the proportion of the body as education was to those of the mind. Of the use of bathing to the wearied and hard-working artisan, it was needless to speak."

Truly it might be thought that it would be needless to speak, common sense and common decency plead strongly enough in its favour; but what of that? There is a pertinacity in bad habits, and arising out of long neglect, that the clearest argument is unequal to. However, as the proposal has originated with the working men themselves, and as nothing but working men,—we mean those who will work against every obstacle, and the harder as the obstacle the more opposes them,—as nothing but working men can accomplish this undertaking of good, we trust that the *prestige* of their names in connexion with it, is one of the elements of promise for success.

At the meeting in question it was not forgotten to urge that other topic, on which we have occasionally and urgently dwelt, as to the danger of contagious and epidemic diseases, the more so in crowded towns and cities, and against which a suitable provision for frequent and plentiful bathing would be one of the best preventives. As to the facility and feasibility of providing baths, we may follow one of the speakers at the Aberdeen meeting in extracting from Mr. Chadwick's report—

"In the places of work, where there is the greatest need for cleanliness, in every place where there is a steam-engine, hot water, which is commonly allowed to run waste, is already provided in abundance for warm or tepid baths, not only for the work-people, but, where there are numerous engines, for the whole population. If the same hot water arose at the same heat and abundance from any natural spring, baths would be erected, and medical treatises would be written in commendation of its medical virtues, which the water, as engine-[illegible] prove now to be, are ascribable, in the majority of instances, simply to the hot water, and to its application in cases where it had not before been used. Hot or tepid baths are deemed of more importance for the labouring classes in winter than are cold baths in summer, and they might be generally provided for the working-classes in the manufacturing districts at a cost utterly inconsiderable. A few years since, a gentleman, observing some ditches in London, in the neighbourhood of the City-road, smoking with clean hot water running away from the steam engine of a manufactory, directed attention to the waste, and suggested the expediency of using that water to supply public warm or tepid baths. After a time, the suggestion was acted upon as a private speculation, and large swimming-baths were constructed; one, with superior accommodation and decoration, at 1s.; another, with less costly fittings-up, at 6d. the bath. These were luxurious tepid baths, kept at a heat of 84°. The example appears to have been followed in Westminster, by the establishment of similar tepid swimming-baths, where only 3d. is charged to persons of the working class. As many as 2000 and 3000 of this class have resorted to these baths in one day, and the bath, at the lowest charge, is stated to make the best return for the capital invested in it."

The plan, however, to be aimed at in Aberdeen, is to reduce the charges still lower than those above quoted,—if possible, indeed, to assimilate it to the penny postage in its universality, and in its being within the reach of working people. Aberdeen is beautifully supplied with water of a superior quality, so that, all circumstances considered, we are greatly in hopes that success will attend the project.

It was mentioned in one of the resolutions that the object would be to consider great plainness and economy in the structure; this may be unavoidable, but we have an eye in these matters to the superior influence of a pleasing and expressive character of building; and we would suggest to some of our young student readers to turn their attention to the question of designing suitable structures for baths. A pile of building devoted to such an object should have an inviting aspect, and the conduits of supply and waste might be happily exhibited in the form of basins, ornamental tanks, fountains, &c. Porticoes and cloistered walks, appropriate to such class of building, and with the other accessories having an inviting aspect should be selected as constituent elements of the design; thus the whole edifice might be rendered, as every well designed one should be, the exponent of its objects and uses, and not requiring, as is too frequently the case in these days, to have sign-boards and descriptions to tell THOSE WHO RUN—this is a WORKHOUSE—THIS IS A CHURCH, and so on. We have thrown these few general remarks together as being those upon which all authorities are agreed, without wishing to dictate or dogmatise further as from ourselves. We need not say that our interest in the subject is of a twofold nature; it ministers to our likings, and will do to those of most of our readers, both on the ground of its sanative purport, and its bearing upon building art.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

TELFORD AND WALKER PREMIUMS, 1843.

The council of the Institution of Civil Engineers have awarded the following Telford and Walker premiums:—

A Telford medal in silver to Frederick Walter Simms, M. Inst. C.E., for his papers "On the application of Horse-power to raising Water, &c.," and on "Brick-making."

A Telford medal in silver to William Pole, Assoc. Inst. C.E., for his papers "On the Friction of Steam Engines, &c.," and "On the Pressure and Density of Steam, &c."

A Telford medal in silver to Thomas Oldham, Assoc. Inst. C.E., for his "Description and Drawings of the Automaton Balance, invented by Mr. Cotton, and used at the Bank of England for weighing Sovereigns."

A Telford premium of books, suitably bound and inscribed, to Daniel Mackain, M. Inst. C.E., for his paper "On the Supply of Water to the City of Glasgow."

A Telford premium of books, suitably bound and inscribed, to David [illegible], Assoc. Inst. C.E., for his "Description and Drawings of the Victoria Bridge over the River Wear."

A Telford premium of books, suitably bound and inscribed, to David T. Hope, for his paper "On the relative merits of Granite and Wood Pavements, and Macadamised Roads."

A Walker premium of books, suitably bound and inscribed, to Robert Mallet, M. Inst. C.E., for his paper "On the Co-efficient of Labouring force in Water Wheels, &c."

A Walker premium of books, suitably bound and inscribed, to William John Macquorn Rankine, Assoc. Inst. C.E., for his papers and drawings "On laying down Railway Curves," "On the Spring Contrivance for Railway Carriages," and "On the Causes of the Fracture of Railway Axles, &c."

A Walker premium of books, suitably bound and inscribed, to William Lewis Baker, Grad. Inst. C.E., for his "Description and Drawings of the Water Pressure Engine, at the Alte Mordgrube Mine, Freyberg."

A Walker premium of books, suitably bound and inscribed, to Samuel Collett Homersham, Assoc. Inst. C.E., for his paper and drawings "On the Construction of Valves for Pumps, &c."

A Walker premium of books, suitably bound and inscribed, to John Oliver York, Assoc. Inst. C.E., for his paper "On the Comparative strength of Solid and Hollow Axles."

A Walker premium of books, suitably bound and inscribed, to George Hessel Bishop, for his "Description of the American Locomotive Engine, Philadelphia, used on the Birmingham and Gloucester Railway," communicated by Captain W. S. Moorsom, Assoc. Inst. C.E.

A Walker premium of books, suitably bound and inscribed, to George Henry Wheeler Jackson, Grad. Inst. C.E. for the drawings illustrating "The Description of Machines for raising and lowering Miners," by John Taylor, M. Inst. C.E.

SESSION, 1844.

The council invite communications on the following, as well as other subjects, for Telford and Walker Premiums:—

1.—On the theory of arches, abutments, and piers, comparing the hypothesis of different writers; with practical examples of the application of the theory.

2.—The history of the invention of, and the improvements in, oblique arches, with the theory and practical methods of setting them out.

3.—Experiments on the pressure upon every part of an oblique arch, especially how the pressure varies as the angles become oblique.

4.—On the construction of retaining and wharf walls, with examples of failure and the causes.

5.—A description of the Canal of the Helder (Holland), or of any foreign engineering works of a similar kind and importance.

6.—The modes of irrigation in use in northern Italy; of drainage adapted to the Lowlands of the United Kingdom, or works of a similar nature in Holland or in other countries.

7.—On any of the principal rivers of the United Kingdom, (the Shannon,) or of foreign countries, (the Po, Italy,) describing their physical characteristics, and the engineering works upon them.

8.—An account of the waste or increase of the land on any part of the coast of Great Britain, the nature of the soil, the direction of the tides, currents, rivers, estuaries, &c., with the means adopted for retarding or preventing the waste of the land.

9.—The principles and practice of constructing coffer-dams.

10.—The best and most economical mode of raising large stones or rocks from the beds of rivers or harbours.

11.—The application of gunpowder as an instrument of engineering operations.

12.—The conveyance of fluids in pipes, under pressure, and the circumstances which usually affect the velocity of these currents; with accounts of water works and gas works.

13.—The means of rendering large supplies of water available for the purpose of extinguishing fires, and the best application of manual power to the working of fire engines.

14.—The most advantageous method of employing the power of a stream of water, where the height of the fall is greater than can be applied to water wheels of the usual construction.

15.—Experiments on water wheels, steam engines, and other machines, with the friction break.

16.—The construction of cranes for raising and lowering weights.

17.—The proportions of large chimneys, as affecting their draught; with examples and drawings of the construction.

18.—The ventilation of coal pits or mines, in Great Britain or in foreign countries.

19.—The construction of spiral and fan blowing machines, and the power required to drive them, in relation to the pressure and volume of air delivered.

20.—The smelting and manufacture of metals, in Great Britain or in foreign countries.

21.—The comparative advantages of iron and wood, or of both materials combined, as employed in the construction of steam vessels; with drawings and descriptions.

22.—The sizes of steam vessels of all classes, whether river or sea-going, in comparison with their engine power; giving the principal dimensions of the engines and vessels, draught of water, tonnage, speed, consumption of fuel, &c.

23.—The best forms for river and sea-going steam vessels; with practical examples.

24.—The various modes of propelling vessels in actual or past use, and their comparative merits.

25.—The results of the use of tubular boilers, and of steam at an increased pressure, for marine engines.

26.—On the best application of the principle of expansion to the improvement of the steam engine; with examples of the effect of such application, from actual experiment, and a description of the engines experimented upon.

27.—Description of pyrometers, for ascertaining the degrees and the fluctuations of the temperature of the flues of furnaces, &c.

28.—The various modes for removing earth in railway tunnels, cuttings, or embankments, with the cost thereof.

29.—Observations on the subsidence of embankments, and on slips in cuttings, with practical methods for preventing or remedying them.

30.—Notices of the principal self acting tools employed in the manufacture of engines and machines, and the effect of their introduction.

31.—Memoirs and accounts of the works and inventions of any of the following engineers.—Sir Hugh Middleton; Arthur Woolf; Jonathan Hornblower; Richard Trevithick; William Murdoch (of Soho); and Alexander Nimmo.

Original papers, reports, or designs, of these or other eminent individuals, are peculiarly acceptable for the library of the Institution.

The communications must be forwarded on or before the 31st of May, 1844, to the house of the Institution, No. 25, Great George-street, Westminster, where further information may be obtained.

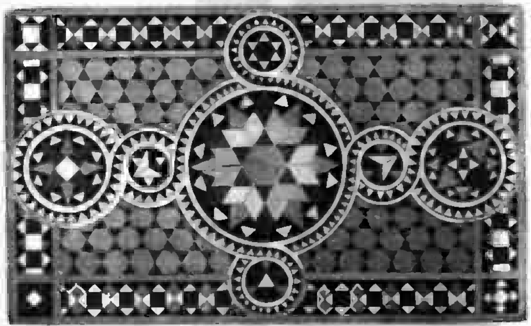
DESIGN FOR AN INLAID MARBLE TABLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—In No. 43 of your paper a notice was inserted, saying that "A Young Mason," who is making a marble table of different colours, wished to have a design. I have forwarded you one, which, if it be the sort of thing he wishes for, he is quite at liberty to use. My idea has been to imitate the ancient Mosaic works, similar to those in the tomb of Henry III. and the shrine of Edward the Confessor in Westminster Abbey. I would suggest that the brightest marbles, and those having the most contrast, be placed in the Guilloche and borders, and the ground be composed of marbles with less contrast. It is drawn to a scale of 1½ inch to the foot.

I remain, Sir, yours obediently,

JAMES K. COLLING, [illegible]



Design for an Inlaid Marble Table.

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